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Medfield, MA 02052  
March 10, 2000

Jane Henney, M.D.  
Commissioner, FDA

Dear Dr. Henney,

I am very concerned about the wide-spread use of antibiotics in animal feed in the United States. I understand that the use of 19 different antibiotics is allowed, including 7 used in human medicine. The Centers for Disease Control consider the agricultural use of antibiotics to be the major cause of antibiotic resistance in food-borne illness.

In contrast, the European Union has prohibited the use of all antibiotics used in human medicine for animal growth promotion, and authorizes the use of only four others for agricultural use without prescription. Farmers in Sweden and Denmark are demonstrating that good quality pork and chicken can be produced at reasonable cost without antibiotics simply by providing the animals with a clean and humane environment.

I hope that the FDA will soon act to curtail the use of antibiotics in food production. I feel that the health of Americans is being unnecessarily threatened in order to serve the selfish interests of our meat producers.

On a different subject, I believe that all foods containing genes introduced by methods other than classical cross-breeding should be so labeled. Consumers in Europe have asserted their right to know what they are eating. Americans are being denied that right.

Thank you for your attention and concern.

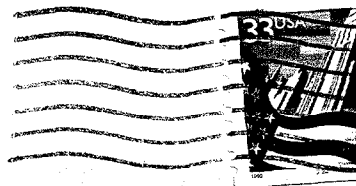
Yours truly,

*John Coffin*  
*Jamie L. Coffin*

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